

3 March 66

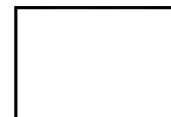
Note for



STATINTL

The memorandum ^{for} DDST has been written under the assumption that the level of truck traffic moving to date through Mu Gia Pass has delivered 80 tons per month. We have estimated in the past month that the level of traffic has been sufficient to deliver about 80 tons per day rather than 80 tons per month. Our current estimate of this traffic is expressed as a range of 70 to 90 tons per day.

We believe that the estimate of 250 porters and a few trucks to deliver 80 tons per month is correct. Since the tonnage to be considered, however, is 30 times the level considered, we believe that DDST should reconsider their conclusions. The movement of 80 tons per day over a distance of 15 n.m. would require the use of at least 7,500 porters. If it is true that bombing of the Mu Gia Pass area could force the North Vietnamese to use porters at anywhere near this rate on a continuing basis, we would be causing them considerable difficulty. It is possible that they would do so, and it is quite possible that we could not stop them. Even the use of anti-personnel mines would not stop them, only increase their difficulties and raise their casualty rate.



STATINTL

Note for [redacted]

STATINTL

I think I would be inclined to be more optimistic about reducing the movement of traffic if, in fact, 7500 posters are required than found Avis appears to be. Possibly these 7500 posters would operate completely under tree cover. This number would represent, ^{nevertheless,} 1 poster every 10 feet if the distance is 15 miles.

I don't think we have ever experienced this poster density that far in [redacted]

~~True~~ It seems to me
that the number of men
should present some
sort of target against
which we could operate.

Therefore, I would be
inclined to conclude
that some traffic will
continue to move, but
that even a reduced amount
would present all kinds of
problems for the DRV. Therefore,
I feel that bombing the
pass, using anti-personnel
mines, even strafing would
at least reduce the
amount of tonnage the

of course, ^{to}
ton per day probably
in excess of requirements
in Laos & BIN and
under conditions of
poor the DRV would
move only the smallest
amount needed.